

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 PC-04 ACDA-19 AGR-20

DLOS-07 COA-02 INT-08 FEA-02 CG-00 DOTE-00 MC-02

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15

IGA-02 DRC-01 /224 W

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R 151512Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1404

INFO DOD WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 4004

DEPT ALSO FOR AID/W

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJ: SECURITY ASSISTANCE OBJECTIVES AND GUIDELINES, FY 76-80

REF: A. QUITO A-29, FY-75-76 CASP FOR ECUADOR; B. QUITO 3695

C. QUITO 3801; D. QUITO DAO 101507Z JUNE 74; E. POM FY-76-80

F. STATE 31505

1. REFERENCE F REQUESTED AN OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE NEED FOR, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AND INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PLANNED FOR ECUADOR FOR FY-75 AND RECOMMENDED FOR THE PLANNING PERIOD.

2. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE HERE FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS AND THE
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ENVISAGED ANNUAL GRANT ASSISTANCE TO ECUADOR DURING THE

PLANNING PERIOD IS ON THE ORDER OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS, A SUMMARY STATEMENT RATHER THAN OVERALL ASSESSMENT IS SUBMITTED AS AUTHORIZED IN PARA 1B OF REF F. ISSUE OF U.S. ASSISTANCE BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN HAS ALSO BEEN ADDRESSED IN MESSAGES UNDER REFERENCE. REF B, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS OUR MOST RECENT SUMMARY OF NEEDS OF ECUADOREAN NAVY; REF C ADDRESSED FUTURE CONTENT AND TERMS OF AID PROGRAM FOR ECUADOR. REF D WAS QUITO DAO'S CONTRIBUTION TO JOINT STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES PLAN.

3. IN SPECIFIC RESPONSE TO PARA 1B, REF F, THE NEED FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO ECUADOR IS DICTATED BY TWO PRINCIPAL FACTORS: FIRST THE DETERIORATION OF ECUADOR'S FORCES BROUGHT ABOUT BY A HIATUS IN US TRAINING AND SUPPLY FOR THREE YEARS, SECOND THE IMPORTANCE OF REVIVING TIES WITH THE ECUADOREAN MILITARY AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR OVERALL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS GENERALLY. AS WE HAVE ARGUED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THE FACT THAT GOE IS A MILITARY GOVERNMENT MAKES A MILITARY TRAINING AND SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP ALL THE MORE EFFECTIVE AS A TOOL IN INFLUENCING GOE OVERALL POLICIES. WE HAVE ALSO MADE THE SPECIFIC POINT THAT POLICY OF ASSISTANCE TO AND GOOD RELATIONS WITH GOE NAVY COULD ENHANCE OUR FISHERIES, PETROLEUM AND LOS OBJECTIVES SINCE NAVAL OFFICERS OCCUPY KEY GOE POSITIONS IN THESE AREAS OF ACTIVITY.

4. WITH RESPECT TO EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE EFFORTS HERE, THERE IS LITTLE BY WAY OF CONCRETE COMMENT WHICH CAN BE OFFERED AT THIS TIME FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE WAS SUSPENDED FOR THREE YEARS AND IS ONLY NOW ABOUT TO RESUME. WE CAN ALREADY SAY, HOWEVER, THAT GOE AS A WHOLE, AND THE MILITARY IN PARTICULAR, HAVE WELCOMED THE LIFTING OF FMS SANCTIONS AND INTERPRETED THIS STEP AS WE INTENDED IT TO BE, I.E. AN EFFORT BY US TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. SINCE THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS, ALL THREE ECUADOREAN SERVICES HAVE EXPRESSED KEEN AND SPECIFIC INTEREST IN U.S. TRAINING AND SUPPLIES AND THEIR INTEREST IN OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPLY APPEARS TO HAVE DIMINISHED. WE ARE, THEREFORE, CONFIDENT THAT ONCE A PATTERN OF SUPPLY AND TRAINING OF

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ECUADOREAN FORCES IS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED OUR OBJECTIVES OF UPGRADING THEIR FORCES AND STRENGTHENING RELATIONS WILL BE ENHANCED ALTHOUGH IT IS OBVIOUS THAT A MORE COMPLETE AND BETTER FOUNDED JUDGEMENT MUST AWAIT THE NEXT FY.

5. AS REGARDS THE IMPACT OF THIRD COUNTRY AND OTHER US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, WE WOULD JUDGE THAT IT IS NOT

SIGNIFICANT. IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, ECUADOR IS NOT NOW AND NOT LIKELY TO BECOME A SIGNIFICANT AID RECIPIENT FROM ANY THIRD COUNTRY. MOREOVER, THE CONTEMPLATED GRANT MILITARY AID LEVELS ARE NOT OF THE MAGNITUDE WHICH COULD SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT GOE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TOWARDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. AND, DESPITE STRONG GOE INTEREST IN UPGRADING QUALITY OF ITS MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND COMPETENCE OF ITS MILITARY MANPOWER, THIS INTEREST DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE INTERFERED WITH GOVERNMENT'S OVERRIDING PRIORITY ON NATION BUILDING. IN FACT, SOME OF THE CONTEMPLATED MILITARY ACQUISITIONS DIRECTLY COMPLEMENT RATHER THAN DETRACT FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE HAVE IN MIND, FOR EXAMPLE, ECUADOREAN ARMY'S RATHER LONG SHOPPING LIST OF EQUIPMENT FOR ITS CORPS OF ENGINEERS (SEE QUITO 3684 AND PREVIOUS) MOST OF WHICH WILL BE DEDICATED TO BUILDING THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE (ROAD CONSTRUCTION, REFINERY SITE, ETC).

6. IN SUMMARY, WE BELIEVE THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR ECUADOR TO BE MODEST BUT ESSENTIAL. OUR GRANT AID WILL BE MINIMAL IN RELATION TO WHAT WILL BE SELF-FINANCED BY THE GOE. (FOR EXAMPLE, GOE IS PROJECTED TO SPEND 69.7 MILLION ON DEFENSE IN FY-75 AND OUR MAPT WILL BE BETWEEN \$400 AND 900 THOUSAND.) WHAT OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE WILL ACCOMPLISH, THEREFORE, IS TO HELP DIRECT GOE TOWARDS US AS A SOURCE OF TRAINING AND SUPPLY AND FURTHER THE POLITICAL OBJECTIVES CITED IN PARA 3 ABOVE. THE COSTS TO US WOULD APPEAR TO BE INDEED VERY SLIGHT IN RELATION TO THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS.
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